

## INFORMATION REPORT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. On 24 June 1949 a meeting of the Schools and Education Commission of the Russian Zone was held in the office of the SED Central Secretariat in Berlin. The Commission consists of the following: Stefan Heymann, head of the Kultur and Erziehung section of the SED, Sigrid Schwarz and Wolfgang Groth, specialists from that section, Hans Siebert, head of the Schools section of the Education Administration (DVV), Karl Sothmann, editor-in-chief of the periodical Die Neue Schule and leader of the "Freunde der neuen Schule" (a parent-teacher organization), and Max Kreuziger, SED education specialist in the Berlin city government, as well as a school specialist from each of the SED state headquarters, the division heads of the State Education Ministries, two representatives of the zonal teachers' trade union, one representative of the education section of the Demokratischer Frauenbund Deutschlands (DFD), and one representative of the DVV.
2. A speech by Stefan Heymann emphasized that the principles of Marxism must be applied increasingly to the field of pedagogy. He stated that the Kulturbund had reached a point of stagnation and that it was not in a position to accomplish the education aims of the SED, but that it could sponsor the "Freunde der neuen Schule". Heymann stated that the present goals of the SED were a) to raise the general education standards of the schools on an "anti-fascist-democratic basis", b) to create a new intelligentsia from the ranks of the working classes, and c) to develop a teaching corps which would be both politically conscious and professionally qualified. Heymann recommended intensified shop-group type activity in the schools, and warned against CDU and LDP influence in the schools, particularly the CDU, as it fails to dissociate the church from the school.
3. Wolfgang Groth and Sigrid Schwarz read reports on the decisions of the Politbüro of the SED for improving the educational system. Some of the decisions dealt with practical problems such as salary, school buildings, hot school luncheons, etc. The Politbüro is to organize a pedagogical Aktiv, the members of which are to be named by the Education Section of the Central Secretariat of the SED in cooperation with the Personnel Section of the Central Secretariat. The pedagogical Aktiv will be responsible for the ideological theoretical guidance of the teachers and the educational system in general. Beginning 15 January 1950, four months' courses will be given at the Karl Marx Hochschule for teachers, to be followed later by special courses at schools maintained by the SED Land organizations.

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4. In the discussions which followed, objections were raised by Siebert and Sothmann to Heymann's proposals that the Kulturbund should sponsor the "Freunde der neuen Schule". It was decided by the commission that the Kulturbund would not assume this function, and that if any organization were to sponsor the "Freunde der neuen Schule" it should be the FDGB or the DFD.

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